

ABSTRACT

Methods are provided that are useful in assaying compounds for cognitive enhancing properties, anxiolytic properties, hypnotic properties, or antidepressant properties. These methods involve determining the *in vitro* efficacy and EC₅₀ of the compounds at defined series of cloned GABA_A subtype receptors composed of specific variants of α , β , and γ subunits in order to develop and an activity profile for each compound. Optionally, the binding affinities of the compounds at GABA_A receptors are also determined. As an additional step the *in vivo* effects of the compounds may be tested in animal models